

REMARKS

Careful examination of the application is sincerely appreciated.

Claims 1-40 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 3, 9, 21-23, 27, 28 and 34 have been rejected. Claims 10-20 and 24-26 have been allowed. Claims 2, 5-8, 29-33 and 35-40 have been indicated to contain allowable subject matter.

To conclude the prosecution of this case in response to the Advisory Action, claims 21-23 are canceled without prejudice by this amendment. The allowable subject matter of claim 2 is incorporated into claim 1, thereby making claim 1 and claims 3-9 dependent therefrom allowable. Similarly, the allowable subject matter of claim 29 is incorporated into claim 27, thereby making claim 27 and claims 28, 30-33 dependent therefrom allowable. Further, the allowable subject matter of claim 35 is incorporated into claim 34, thereby making claim 34 and claims 36-40 dependent therefrom allowable.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. An early Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

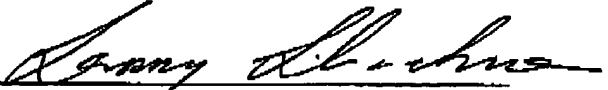
It is respectfully submitted that this supplemental amendment does not raise any new issues that would require further consideration and/or search. Entry of this amendment is therefore respectfully requested.

An earnest effort has been made to be fully responsive to the Examiner's correspondence. In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that the present application is in condition for allowance. However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, he is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Serial No. 09/819,286

Please charge any additional fees associated with this application to Deposit Account No. 14-1270.

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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